

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 52 No. 15

April 21, 2006

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Luncheon

An Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the La Bella Vista Club. The cost is \$11 for club members and \$13 for non-club members. Reservations are due today to Chris Diaz at Ext. 4700.

Incident report

The 31st Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis office has copies of accident and incident reports for insurance claims and other needs. People can request a copy by calling Ext. 7210 or Ext. 4262, or visiting Bldg. 898, across from the flightline visitor control center. Reports can be e-mailed, but only to government accounts. To request a report electronically, e-mail 31SFS.SFAR@aviano.af.mil.

Parenting class

Due to spring break, the 1, 2, 3 Magic Parenting class will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Bldg. 108 in Area One. For more information, call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667.

Volunteers to be recognized at picnic today

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 31st Fighter Wing is hosting a volunteer picnic from noon to 3 p.m. today in Area D to thank Aviano volunteers for their hard work.

All Aviano members are invited to celebrate. Activities include volleyball, soccer, basketball, horseshoes, face painting and bouncing castles for, door prizes, goodie bags and free food.

The picnic kicks off National Volunteer Week, which is Sunday through April 29. Volunteers will be recognized and awards will be presented during a ceremony at the picnic.

"It's crucial to take the time to demonstrate our appreciation to those who give unselfishly day after day for the good of the community," said Sylvia Flores, 31st Mission Support Squadron volunteer resource program manager. "Many people donate their time and energy because they feel good when they've done something for someone else. Holding an elderly person's hand or hearing a child read a book by themselves, for example, helps volunteers see their time and energy has been well invested."

Aviano volunteers donated 132,257

See Picnic, Page 7



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

Staff Sgt. Andre McDonald, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, removes oil fittings from an old 60K aircraft loader engine. Sergeant McDonald is deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Logistic Readiness Squadron, at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Cool down: The 31st Civil Engineer Squadron is turning on cooling systems May 1. For more information, call Ext. 5636.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	965.6	703
	+19.8	+23

Information current as of Thursday.



The Afterburner

The Airmen of The Afterburner morning show tell what it's like to be radio stars and keep the base informed.

- Pages 10-11



Crystal waters

Travel to Gorgazzo Springs where the crystal clear waters seem to transform into a myriad of colors.

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Letter to Airmen: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed nationally in April 2006 with April 6 highlighted as "The Day to End Sexual Violence."

Your Air Force leadership has been aggressively addressing this national problem. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to preventing it, and if it occurs, responding deliberately to sexual assault within the Air Force.

Sexual assault is a crime and will be treated as such in our Air Force. Every single Airman is important to the combat capability of our United States Air Force. We value each and every member of our team. Our core values are built on themes of respect and mutual dependence. But with sexual assault, everybody loses--the victim, the perpetrator, the entire squadron. It is up to all Airmen to help prevent this heinous crime.

We have made significant strides in our prevention and response efforts over the past year with mandatory awareness training to over 360,000 Airmen, worldwide. Sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates have been trained and are actively working to educate us on how to prevent this crime, while providing dedicated and caring

assistance to its victims.

We've implemented a restricted reporting option, which allows Air Force military members who have been sexually assaulted to confidentially receive medical treatment and support without automatically triggering a criminal investigation. Similarly, victims who would like for the case to be investigated can make an immediate unrestricted report, and still receive the support of the sexual assault prevention and response team.

Remember, integrity involves responsibility, accountability and self-respect. Airmen with integrity are dependable and consistent ... they behave in a manner that brings credit to themselves, their unit, and the Air Force.

Airmen who value their teammates and our Air Force more than their narrow self-interests display fundamental respect for others as well as discipline and self control. Airmen who are committed to excellence apply that standard to their personal lives, community involvement and operational initiatives.

Let us continue our rise to that higher plane where every Airman is treated with respect and protected from harm. Our mission and our core values demand nothing less.



Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force



T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Aviano Airmen of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Rochell Dorval
Unit: 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron
Job: Personnelist
Hometown: Killeen, Texas
Family: Five-month-old daughter, JaNeese Indya Brightwell
Hobbies: I really enjoy being a mother, and ballet, tap and modern dancing.
Why joined: For the educational opportunities and self-discipline



Name: Airman 1st Class Tyler Wallace
Unit: 31st Comptroller Squadron
Job: Customer service technician
Hometown: Eagle River, Ark.
Family: His wife Nancy, mom, step-dad and brother
Hobbies: Soccer, snowboarding, bowling, computers and wood-working
Why joined: For the educational opportunities, retirement and for the peace of mind

Aviano intel NCO named best in Air Force

By Senior Airman
Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A 31st Operations Support Squadron NCO was recently named best in the Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kelly was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Active Duty Intelligence NCO of the Year Level II for his work for the 31st Fighter Wing.

Although intelligence jobs can vary depending on the mission of the base and squadron, Sergeant Kelly said here he observes news trends. "We monitor current events going on around the globe with a special interest in our area of responsibility and then we brief wing leadership on those events," he said. "We also support the two fighter squadrons by being experts on enemy tactics and weapon system capabilities."

As an intelligence weapons and tactics NCO, Sergeant Kelly was instrumental in preparation of Aviano's Air Expeditionary Force 5 and 7 and training for the 510th and 555th Fighter Squadrons.

"Sergeant Kelly was nominated [for the award] because of his exceptional contributions to the intelligence flight during the preparation for deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism as well as his significant intel contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom while deployed," said Capt. Christopher Workinger, chief of intelligence weapons and tactics.

His work armed crucial Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom strikers with key intelligence. Overall, he trained 70 pilots and 20 air controllers who deployed



Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kelly, 31st Operations Support Squadron intelligence weapons and tactics NCO, was recently named the Air Force's Outstanding Active Duty Intelligence NCO of the Year Level II.

to fight in the Global War on Terrorism.

"In 2005, 27 of 40 intel troops in the wing deployed to various locations over a nine-month period of back-to-back AEF taskings," said Maj. Mark Mitchem, 31st OSS intelligence flight commander. "Sergeant Kelly was certainly one of our top performers, particularly when called upon to manage our wing intel training program for four months while the captain who normally runs this program was

deployed. We're very proud of him and his teammates for doing so well throughout a very challenging year."

Sergeant Kelly also served as an expert evaluator for three intelligence certifications, ensuring the 31st OSS Intelligence Flight was 100 percent combat ready. "He is very dedicated to the mission and puts forth a tremendous effort until the task is completed ... it's in his character to do the job right," said Captain Workinger.

That dedication to the mission is ingrained in not only him, but Sergeant Kelly's family as well. One of the main reasons Sergeant Kelly joined the Air Force was because of the military tradition in his family. "My father and uncle were in and I also have two other uncles that retired from the Air Force since I've enlisted," he said.

In addition to his deployment, Sergeant Kelly also works to support the Airmen he supervises. As the flight career development course manager, Sergeant Kelly mentored four Airmen through their end-of-course exams and gives the following advice.

"The most important quality an Airman should have is experience," he said. "Never shy away from the tough jobs – they will only make you better."

Although he acknowledges that winning the award was an achievement, Sergeant Kelly was surprised to hear the news. "Winning this award means I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing. It's nice to know you're on track," he said, adding that "I know there are lots of very smart, hard-working NCOs in my career field."

Promotions: The 31st Fighter Wing promotion ceremony is at 9 a.m. April 28 at the La Bella Vista Club. Call Ext. 4256 for details.

Three Aviano Airmen receive courts-martial

Courtesy of the 31st Fighter Wing legal office

Jan. 20 – A 724th Air Mobility Squadron airman first class was tried for larceny of non-military property, valued at less than \$500, and for obtaining, through false pretenses, long-distance telephone services valued at \$500 or less. The accused plead guilty to all charges and a special court martial consisting of officers sentenced the accused to a reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$849 pay for four months and one month confinement.

Jan. 26 – A 31st Security Forces airman first class was tried for reckless endangerment, violation of a general order and willful dereliction of duty. The accused, while on "Do not arm" status, was allegedly pointing a loaded firearm at another Airman. The accused plead not guilty to all charges. A special court martial consisting of officers and

enlisted members acquitted him of reckless endangerment and violation of a general order, but found the Airman guilty of dereliction of duty. The members sentenced the accused to reduction to the grade of E-2, 30 days confinement and hard labor without confinement for 20 days.

March 24 – A 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron airman was tried for making a false official statement and wrongful use of several controlled substances including marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy and mushrooms. The accused plead guilty to all charges except the wrongful use of cocaine. A general court martial consisting of officers and enlisted members acquitted the Airman of the wrongful use of cocaine, but in regards to the remaining charges, sentenced the accused to a bad conduct discharge, reduction to the grade of E-1, and 15 months confinement.

Break the silence

SARC helps people recover from sexual assault

**By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek**

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's late on a Friday night. You could be at home with friends watching a movie or out at a bar when the unthinkable happens – someone sexually assaults you.

You're not alone and the sexual assault response coordinator here can help.

"My job is to tell them the resources available on base and to listen," said Capt. Karin De Angelis, 31st Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

Sexual assault is a criminal act that can happen to anyone, regardless of age, sex or marital status.

"Although it can happen to anyone, the majority of victims are 18- to 20-year-old women," said Captain De Angelis. "In 80 percent of cases, the victims know the individual who commits the crime and the majority of cases also involve alcohol."

The Department of Defense defines sexual assault as rape, indecent assault, nonconsensual sodomy or attempts at sexual assault.

Captain De Angelis said Aviano has sexual assault cases, just as every installation, and the majority of assaults here occur between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.

"Comparable to the other [U.S. Air

"When going out, especially when there is heavy drinking involved, have a plan ... always vocalize what you want and always trust your instincts."

"

*- Capt. Karin De Angelis
31st Fighter Wing*

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Forces in Europe] bases, we're not the lowest, but we're not the highest," she said. "We've been involved with 15 cases, both restricted and unrestricted since the [SARC] office opened on June 1, 2005."

According to the USAFE SARC, 75 sexual assaults have been reported throughout USAFE since June 2005. Twenty-nine percent involved a friend, 24 percent involved a co-worker, 15 percent involved a stranger and six percent involved a spouse.

To avoid a sexual assault, Captain De Angelis recommends the following:

"When going out, especially when there is heavy drinking involved, have a plan so your friends know what you are doing, always vocalize what you want and always trust your instincts," she said. "Also, when it comes to alcohol consumption, be aware of your limits."

If a sexual assault does occur, victims can reach the SARC staff at any time, day or night, at Ext. 7272 or 0434-30-7272. The SARC office is located in Bldg. 220, Area Two and works with dependents over the age of 18, civilians and active duty members.

The SARC office gives victims two options to report the crime. Victims can protect their identity and report restricted with no legal action taken, or they can make an unrestricted report and allow the crime to be investigated.

"We can help talk [the victims] through it, and help them get medical care," Captain De Angelis said. "But if a victim talks to a first sergeant or commander, the crime becomes unrestricted and is reported through legal investigative chains," Captain De Angelis said.

Since a sexual assault is a traumatic event, victims may find it hard to recover. Captain De Angelis said the best way to recover is to break the silence. "After an assault, other people might treat them differently. The ability to have normal relationships is harder," she said. "It's a very difficult crime to talk about, but once the victim starts talking about it to someone, it can help them heal. Some people heal through their spiritual means and other people heal by going through the legal investigation process."

Contracting gate: Due to Italian holidays, Gate 10, also known as the contracting gate, is closed Tuesday and May 1.

Picnic, from page 1

hours of their time during 2005.

"Volunteers receive something in return, just like from a savings account. They feel great and keep coming back to do it again. Many volunteers have made volunteering a lifestyle," Ms. Flores said.

Tech. Sgt. John Rhoutsong, 31st Operations Support Squadron air traffic control watch supervisor, volunteers at the Aviano Youth Center often. He is currently coaching youth baseball and is involved in other after-school youth programs. "Volunteering isn't about recognition. It's something that needs to be done to make it better for the kids," he said.

People interested in volunteering can contact their unit volunteer representative or call Ms. Flores at Ext. 5658. People can also visit the family support center Web site for a list of volunteer activities at <http://www.avianofsc.org/career.html>.

Once people sign up to volunteer, they can track their hours through the Hidden Hero program. "Typically, I like to interview [new volunteers] to see what they like to do or what their talents are," Ms. Flores said. "I inform them what's available in the community and I register them as a new volunteer in

the Hidden Heroes database. I also show them how to get around the Hidden Heroes Web site."

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in the Aviano area. People of all backgrounds can volunteer at the Sacile hospital, Red Cross office, legal office, dental clinic and the school counseling department.

"Opportunities range from translating to working with stray animals. Some volunteers help children work on their school assignments, check out books, sing and dances, or pick up trash," Ms. Flores said. "By volunteering, people can reduce boredom, learn new skills, make friends, stay current in the area of their professional careers, plus improve self-satisfaction and self-worth levels."

Ms. Flores said the community greatly benefits from Aviano volunteers. "Community needs are met, projects are completed and communication gaps are bridged," she said. "Relationships grow and blossom and the community is strengthened."

"A hearty thank you to the volunteers who gave so much throughout the year. It's an honor for me to work with such caring individuals," said Ms. Flores.

Play group offers interaction for parents, kids

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano parents and children alike now have a safe, fun and free way to interact with others their age.

The Lil Bambino play group, designed for children under age 5, provides an opportunity for both parents and children to get together.

"I started the group because there was really nothing to do for kids under the age of 5 and mothers were complaining," said Jacky Hingleton. "A lot of parents sit at home and don't meet people. I didn't know anyone my first year and now when I go to the [base exchange] I know lots of people. This is a good chance for parents to come out and meet other parents."

During the school year, the group meets Wednesdays in the youth center gym, Bldg. 116 in Area One. In the summer, the group moves its weekly meetings to Freedom Park behind the Dragon Fitness Center in Area F. Once a month, the play group members go on a field trip in the local area.

"I like to do the field trips so people can see there are other things to do here besides going to the base," said Mrs. Hingleton. "The local area has a lot to offer everyone."

During the regular weekly sessions, Mrs. Hingleton and the other parents plan a variety of activities for the children.

"The group usually begins with free play time, then snack time, music and dancing, and then story time," explained Mrs. Hingleton. "Kids have a chance to run around and burn off energy while parents meet other parents, share experiences, get information and make friends."

Since she started the group a year ago, Mrs. Hingleton has seen it grow in popularity. "On an average Wednesday, we have about 40-50 kids attend and I have more than 100 names in my database."

The database includes parents' names and e-mail addresses which Mrs. Hingleton uses to send information out to the parents about upcoming events and activities.

Christine Johnson was impressed by Mrs. Hingleton's dedication after she brought her two children to a play group session for the first time. "The group is very well organized and Jacky makes you feel so welcome," she said. "She just does a phenomenal job on making everyone at home and letting all



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Tyler Fisher, 16 months, sits with his mother, Jennifer Fisher while he colors a bag for collecting Easter eggs at a Lil Bambino play group session April 12.

the parents know how the group works."

Mrs. Hingleton said she got the idea for a play group when she was visiting her husband in Korea and attended a group there.

"I think one of the most important aspects about the group is the interaction between a parent and their child," she said. "At some places, you just drop your child off instead of getting to play with them."

In addition to the personal connection parents get with their children, Mrs. Hingleton said the play group helps children prepare for a school environment by teaching them to share and play with others.

"I've met a lot of new parents and my daughter has made so many new friends," said Mrs. Johnson. "She's talking a lot more and is definitely not as shy."

Upcoming play group events include a field trip to a jumping castle in Pordenone, a petting zoo trip in Budoia and a pajama party. For more information on these events or about the group, parents can visit www.lil-bambino.com, e-mail Jacky Hingleton at lil-bambino@hotmail.com or call her at 348-121-3921.

Poetry reading: A poetry reading is at 2 p.m. May 6 at the base library. For more info, call Senior Airman Tiffany Reddick at Ext. 7628.

USAFE band performs for Morón students, teachers

By Capt. Anthony Chu
712th Air Base Group
Public Affairs representative

Instead of another math class or spelling test, more than 50 students, teachers and parents at Sevilla Elementary and Middle Schools were recently treated to a one-hour concert. The concert featured different types of woodwind instruments and energetic band members playing a selection of music that spanned the genres.

Members of the USAFE Band Clarinet Quartet traveled from their home station at Sembach Air Base, Germa-

ny, to the Iberian Peninsula in early April to promote Music in Our Schools Month, a celebration sponsored by the National Association for Music Education to highlight the importance of music programs in schools.

"It's good to bring music to the students to make them a little more well-rounded," said Staff Sgt. Mark Craig, the band's operations and publicity representative. "Music has an important role in schools. It's a nice creative outlet for students which allows them to express themselves, promoting individualism."

"It's another aspect of humanity, re-

ally, if you think about it," he added.

According to principal Steve Hain, the highlight of the visit was the students' enthusiasm for the music as well as the interactions between the performers and the students. The band members also took time to answer questions from the audience members.

"The impact of music for the students is the exposure to cultures," Mr. Hain said. "The intrinsic value of music to carry forward ideas and ideals is one of the most rewarding aspects of exposing students to a variety of musical forms."

Moron Air Base is a tenant unit of Aviano.

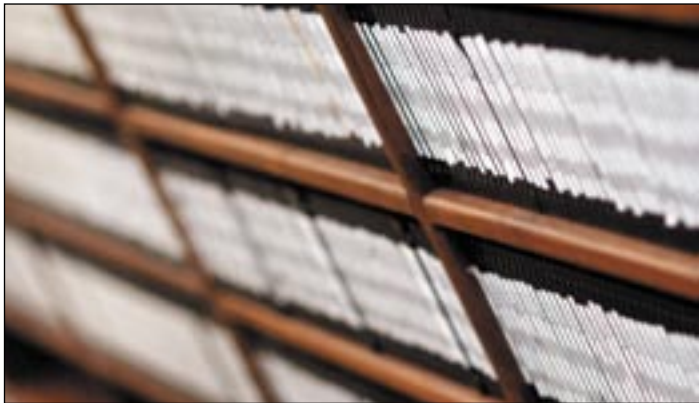
The Afterburner

Aviano's hit music

They're the people we listen to as we get ready and make our way to work in the morning. While their voices are familiar, their faces might not be. Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the dynamic duo that keeps Aviano informed and singing in the car.

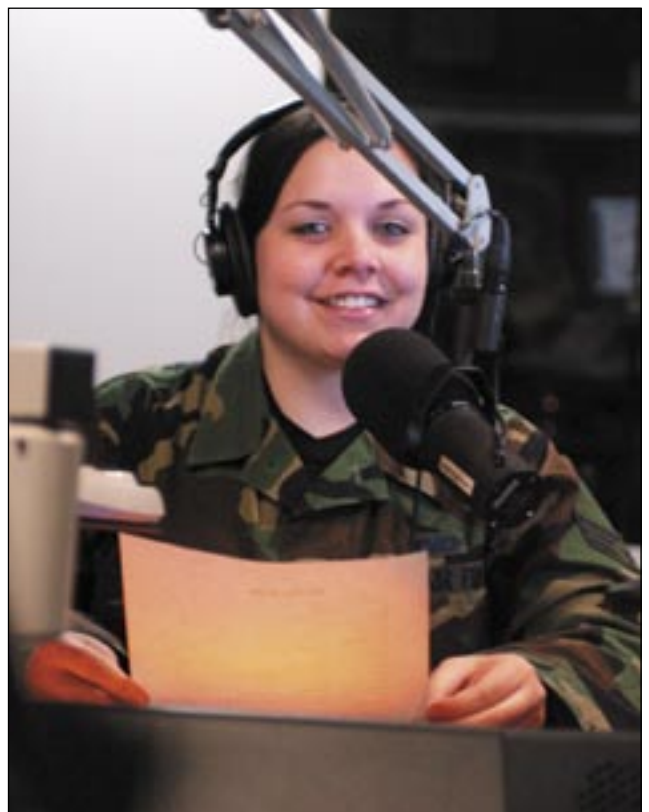
Photos by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

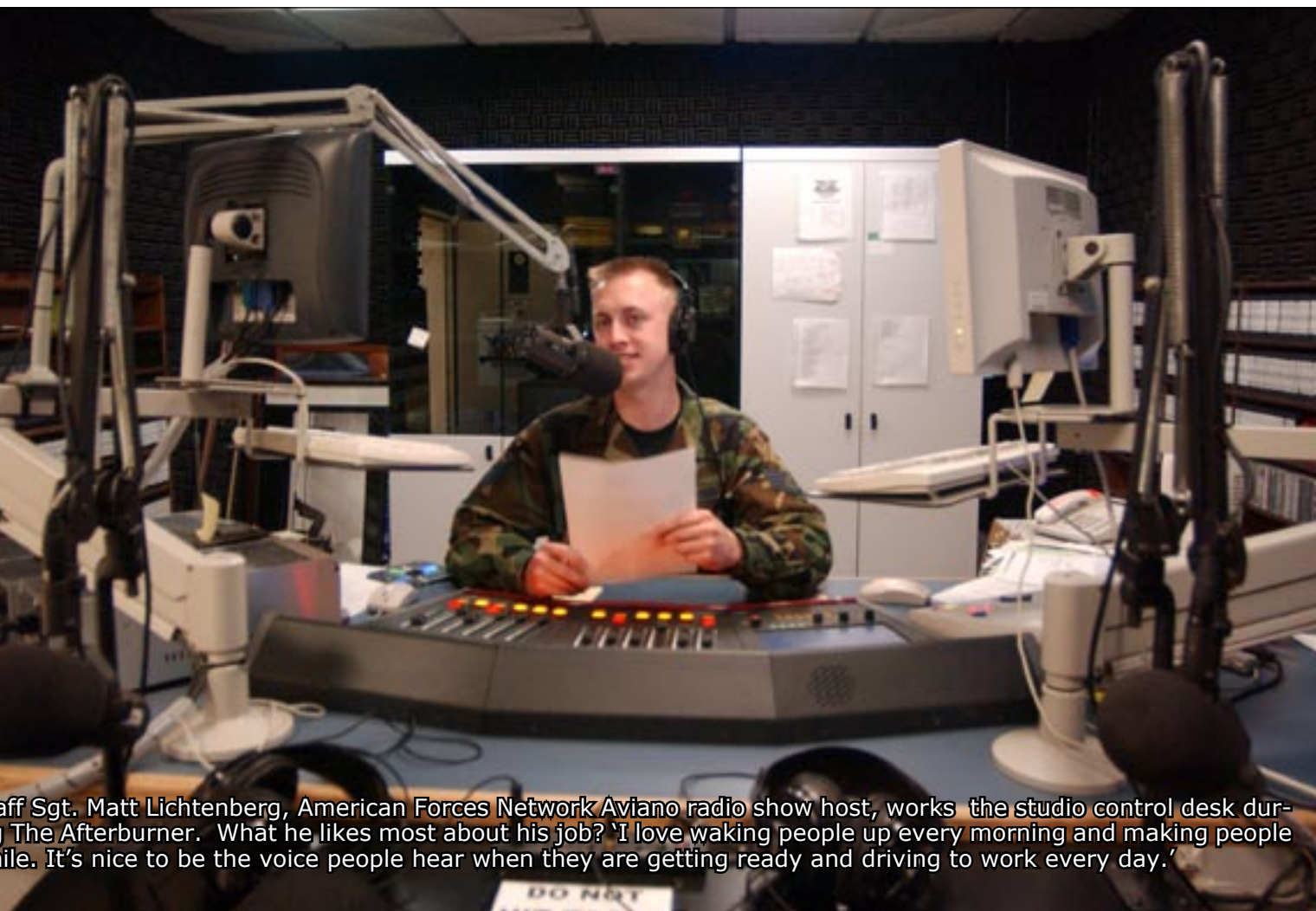
Right: Most Aviano members have heard the zany introductions to The Afterburner morning show. Sergeant Lichtenberg and Airman Johnson keep the jokes and the songs playing with the help of the radio board. The board controls the volume and the transitions between commercials and music.



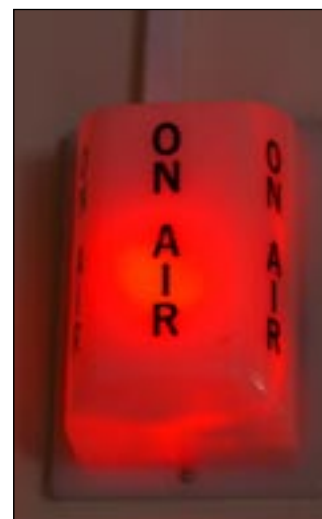
Although ZFM 106 has more than 51,000 songs and counting available in its play rotation, some songs are played more than others. 'One thing people don't know is that the music selection is not up to us,' said Airman Johnson. 'We're required to play a certain amount of pop music but we know people want to hear songs they haven't heard in awhile. That's why we do the all request hour. We have to appease a listening audience of 10,000 who all have very different ideas of what good music is.'

Right: Senior Airman Sara Johnson co-hosts the morning show and prepares the daily news reports. The best part of her job? 'We're allowed to be ourselves and let our personalities show through. This allows us to be creative and to push the envelope a little bit. We can really put our creativity into a product.'





Staff Sgt. Matt Lichtenberg, American Forces Network Aviano radio show host, works the studio control desk during The Afterburner. What he likes most about his job? 'I love waking people up every morning and making people smile. It's nice to be the voice people hear when they are getting ready and driving to work every day.'



Although they don't sit in the same studio, Airman Johnson and Sergeant Lichtenbreg work together to keep The Afterburner on air. 'A big misconception is that we're just sitting here playing music. There's actually a lot of prep work we do off-air,' said Airman Johnson.

Focus group

The 31st Medical Group obstetrics clinic and the Early Developmental Intervention Services host a focus group at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Life Skills Support Center, Bldg. 108 in Area One. Pregnant women or parents with a child under the age of three are invited to attend and talk about ways to improve community services. For more information, call the OB clinic at Ext. 5863 or the New Parent Support Program at Ext. 5667.

Thrift shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop has items that can't be sold and would like to donate them to a needy cause. People who are in need of or know of a needy cause, can call the thrift shop at Ext. 5428. The thrift shop takes consignments from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Donations are accepted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets at 6 p.m.

Thursday in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg. 168, Area One. The topic is "Avoiding Breastfeeding Difficulties." The group welcomes all breastfeeding and pregnant women, babies and children, fathers and fathers-to-be. Snacks will be provided. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

Family fair

The annual family fair celebrating "April: The Month of the Military Child" is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 29 in Hangar One. Informational and activity booths, as well as stage performances, food booths and activities for children are at the fair. For more information, call Ext. 5225.

Bookmark contest

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries are encouraging kindergarteners through highschool students to compete in the second annual bookmark design contest. This year's theme is "Change Your Life @ Your Library" and bookmark colors must be black, white or gray. Entries

must be submitted by April 30 and winners will compete at the USAFE level. For more information and entry form, visit www.usafelibraries.org/.

Heritage month

The Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month kicks off with a proclamation signing at 10 a.m. May 1 in the base exchange lobby. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lorenzo Steele at Ext. 2342 or Senior Master Sgt. Gil Corpuz at Ext. 7635.

Mentoring

A visit to a Porcia Elementary School fifth grade English class is from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. May 8. People interested in visiting must attend a briefing from 5:15 to 6 p.m. April 28 at the family support center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Christine Bowlshy at Ext. 7926 or e-mail christine.bowlshy@aviano.af.mil.

Commencement

Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 graduates from the Community College of the Air Force, on base colleges and universities and those who earned a degree from an online institution will be honored at a commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. May 16 in the Mass Briefing Facility. A reception will follow at the La Bella Vista Club. For more information, call the education center at Ext. 5330.

Road work

The pavement markings in Area F are scheduled to be repainted through May 25. The dates are subject to change due to weather and other circumstances. People must not park in coned areas. For more information, call Ext. 6018.

NCO Association

The Dolomiti Noncommissioned Officer's Association is seeking volunteer members. The organization is actively involved in community events and advocates on behalf of enlisted men and women in the five branches of the U.S. armed forces. Any enlisted

member can join the NCOA. For more information, e-mail jose.barraza@aviano.af.mil or visit NCOAUSA.org.

Identification

Anyone requiring fingerprints for employment, military enlistment or for immigration visas can visit Bldg. 898, across from the flightline visitor control center, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For more information, call Ext. 7210 or Ext. 4262.

Coin contest

The Aviano Airman's Advisory Council is holding a coin designing contest open to everyone on base. Designs must have "Aviano Airman Advisory Council" somewhere on the coin, must have a logo or motto and must be in good taste. Designs should be submitted by May 31 to AAAC@aviano.af.mil.

The winner will be announced at the next Airman's All Nighter June 30. The winner receives a letter of appreciation, a new AAAC coin and a \$100 scholarship. For more information, e-mail aaac@aviano.af.mil.

Test booklets

Beginning with the chief master sergeant promotion testing cycle in September, Airmen will use multiple-use test booklets for promotion testing and be prohibited from marking in booklets. The change is expected to improve test security and administrative procedures. For more information, visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Power of Presence

Aviano Airmen have a new way to share career milestones with family and friends around the world. The Power of Presence Web site, found at www.usafe.af.mil/pop, displays photos for download of Airmen receiving unit, quarterly and annual awards, promotions, leadership visits and other significant events. For more information, call Senior Airman Sarah Gregory at Ext. 7344.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "16 Blocks" Rated PG-13 - A troubled NYPD officer is forced to take a witness 16 blocks from the police station, but no one wants the duo to make it. Starring: Bruce Willis, Dante 'Mos Def' Smith

Today, 10 p.m. - "Final Destination 3" Rated R - When a high school student fails to stop a fated roller coaster ride, she tries to prevent the grim reaper from revisiting the survivors. Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Something New" Rated PG-13 - A Kenyan woman is determined to get African-Americans married and she falls in love with a landscaper. Starring: Sanaa Lathun, Simon Baker, Mike Epps

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "When a Stranger Calls" Rated PG-13 - A high school student is terrorized by a stranger who calls her while she's babysitting. Starring: Camilla Belle, Katie Cassidy

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Final Destination 3" Rated R

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "16 Blocks" Rated PG-13

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "When a Stranger Calls" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Wine festival

Enjoy food and wine at a wine festival each night through May 2 at Luna Park in Casarsa. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Ethnic festival

Discover different cultures during a folklore festival in Gradisca d'Isonzo from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday through May 1. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Painting

"Pio Semeghini e il Chiarismo," a painting exhibit is from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until May 28 in medieval Mantua. For more information, visit www.fondazione semeghini.it or www.centropalazzote.it.

Flower festival

Take in the sights of the flower displays and sounds of local entertainment each evening at a flower festival until May 1 in Povoletto near Udine. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Asparagus festival

Taste asparagus delicacies during the asparagus festival each evening until May 8 in Gorgo di Latisana. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Spring festival

Take in the sights and sounds at the all-day bird festival Sunday in Sacile. For more information, call Ext. 7555.

Explore 'liquid sky' of Gorgazzo

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Jerome Baysmore
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Gorgazzo, Italy, is home to a natural phenomenon which gave its springs the name "liquid sky."

I'm a nature lover, and I had only seen part of the springs in passing, so this past weekend I decided to take my family on a nature hike. The springs are located off the mountain highway between Dardago and Polcenigo.

Gorgazzo's source spring is just a short walk from the park below, and visitors can take in the sights and sounds of the fast-moving waterfall and rapids along the way.

The mountain spring water is clear enough to count the stones and pebbles along the bottom. Further up at the source, the surface waters seem quietly still, but it's actually teeming with life. Fish meet fowl in a pool which constantly changes color. It takes on hues ranging from emerald to blue at the mouth of a natural cave formed by years of water erosion.

Restaurants dot the springs, but the area's main attraction is the nature paths surrounding the waters. Each direction gives you a different view of the spring and other sights and sounds of nature, from the buzzing of the Apicoltura Janes' bees located a little further up the hill to the honking of geese below.

Gorgazzo's residents are friendly and cordial to spring tourists; the ducks are, too. The birds don't hesitate to swim up for bits of bread crust or crackers – I'll remember to bring both next time.

Further down the road, you can see where the waters flow from the hills down to an early 20th century aqueduct.

Past the waterfall, the smooth-stoned pathway gives way to a well-traveled nature trail. The clear waters meander beside you, and you can see underwater plant life swaying in the currents. You have to be careful not to get too wrapped up in nature because you're



Gorgazzo's springs offer visitors a different view of nature through its fast-moving rapids. The springs also have nature trails for eager explorers looking for a glimpse into local wildlife.

sharing the path with other pedestrians and sometimes mountain bikers.

Although Gorgazzo is only about 5 minutes from Aviano, it's free to take in the sights and sounds of nature and make memories to last a lifetime.

ITT: Information, Tickets and Travel offers customized tour packages to various destinations. For more information, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Courtesy photo

The **Atomium** monument in Brussels represents an iron crystal cell magnified 165 billion times. Windows in the top sphere provide a panoramic view of the city.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday – Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show
- Saturday – Guided San Marino
- April 29 – Guided Venice and gondola ride
- April 29 – Pisa and Vinci Museums; Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show
- May 6 – Friuli region wine tasting

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

Let the games begin

Aviano hosts Olympics Day Monday

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano is hosting a wing-wide Olympics Day Monday. The day kicks off with a mandatory fun run at 7:15 a.m. at the Dragon Fitness Center.

The two-mile fun run begins with squadrons in formation at the football field. People can wear the official Air Force physical training uniform or PT clothes of similar colors.

People on profile may join the walker formation, which won't start until after the last running formation departs.

After the run, the games begin. The games will be ongoing all day and there will be free hot dogs and hamburgers served by the chiefs and first sergeants at 11 a.m.

At 2 p.m. there will be a First Sergeants versus Airmen tug-of-war and at 2:30 p.m. there will be a Chiefs versus Eagles sumo wrestling competition on the football field.

The following is a list of scheduled game times:

- 7:15 a.m. – Formation run starting at the Dragon Fitness Center
- 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Dodgeball at the Dragon Fitness Center basketball court area
- 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Bench press compe-

tion at the Dragon Fitness Center weight room

- 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Racquetball at the Dragon Fitness Center
- 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Tennis at the Dragon Fitness Center tennis courts
- 8:30 a.m. to noon – Horseshoes at the golf course
- 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Pitch softball on ball fields three and four at Freedom Park
- 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Pitch kickball on ball fields five and six at Freedom Park
- 9 to 10 a.m. – 5k run starting at the fitness center
- 9 a.m. to noon – Outdoor volleyball at the side of the Dragon Fitness Center
- 9 a.m. to noon – Soccer at the intramural field
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Golf tournament at the golf course
- 10 to 11 a.m. – 10K perimeter bike race
- 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – 3-on-3 basketball at the Dragon Fitness Center basketball court
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Push-up and sit-up relay at the outdoor track
- 1 to 2 p.m. – Tug-of-War competition on the track field
- 2:30 to 3 p.m. – Chiefs versus Eagles sumo wrestling on the track field

Safe! Aviano Youth Programs needs umpires for baseball and softball. For more information, call Ext. 4784.

Golf outing

Ryan Francis, golf instructor, shows Michael Cuebas, son of Capt. Eric Cuebas, 31st Comptroller Squadron, how to position himself for a good swing. The Alpine Golf Course offered a Golf 4 Kids Clinic last week that taught children the fundamentals of golf. Another Golf 4 Kids Clinic is scheduled for June 26-29.

Children who participated in the 2005 Golf 4 Kids Clinic are invited to a reunion Sunday at the Alpine Golf Course. Food and drinks will be provided and green fees are \$5. To sign up or for more information, call Ext. 7386.



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Fly Bys

Baseball

Pony League baseball is for boys ages 15 to 18 and who are not on an Aviano Youth Program league team. The team will play other American and some Italian teams throughout the season. The league will have a meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Hangar One, Bldg. 921. For more information, call Aaron Stauffer or John Hernandez at Ext. 4034.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8:30 a.m. Sunday. The group meets at the Area D sports complex. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Volleyball

The 2006 volleyball intramural playoffs is Tuesday through April 28 at the Dragon Fitness Center. Game times are 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The championship game is at 5:30 p.m. April 28. For more information, call Ext. 7574.

Bench press

Aviano hosts an inaugural bench press competition at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Dragon Fitness Center. The event will have seven weight classes for male and female lifters. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Alec Maund or Jennifer Kellner at Ext. 7574.

Intramural golf

Intramural golf begins May 16. A coaches meeting is at 2 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, call Ext. 7574.

Correction

In the April 14 Vigileer, the cycling race results were reported incorrectly. Bradley Von Haugg and Mark Naglack placed first in their categories for the combined results. Chris Fritzsche won the men's open road race.

MEO here to help, not frighten people

By Capt. Sarah Geiger
31st Fighter Wing
Military Equal Opportunity chief

“Good morning, I’m Captain Geiger from the Military Equal Opportunity office, how are you?”

This is how I typically initiate phone conversations. But, before I can spit out the nature of my business, I can sometimes feel the awkwardness on the other end of the phone. Some even say, “‘Depends on what you’re calling about’ or ‘what have I done?’”

Believe it or not, the majority of my phone calls don’t even deal with MEO-related issues, but rather routine office maintenance or appointments. So, how is it possible that three letters of the alphabet, M-E-O, can trigger an uncomfortable and even hostile feeling in many?

The Aviano MEO office presently has a staff of four people, and every one of us has grown up in the Air Force in different career fields. Even though we’ve crossed over into the MEO community and are part of the wing staff agencies, we’re still just like everyone else in the wing.

We remember what it’s like to be part of a squadron. We know that each squadron faces challenges every day, but the personal rewards are the most meaningful. We understand that resources and leadership are stretched to the limit every day. We respect and appreciate all the commanders, first sergeants and supervisors that set a good example and take care of their troops every day. We know because we used to be part of your units, and if business isn’t being taken care of within each squadron, the 31st Fighter Wing can’t succeed. But, for some reason, MEO is often perceived and treated by many as outsiders.

Just like you, we work toward the same goals and share similar values. We take our job seriously when required and relax when we can. We want to work for supervisors that foster a positive human relations climate and value our contributions to the mission. When

we have problems, we want them resolved quickly and at the lowest possible level. Sometimes, we even feel the need to take a grievance to an outside agency.

So, while it appears that most of us military folk appreciate the same things, is there something about what MEO does that makes us a little different?

Yes – MEO personnel have received specialized training from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. We know it’s a violation of Air Force policy to use degrading terms and treat people unfairly. We are that agency outside the member’s immediate chain of command that allows him or her to formally address allegations of discrimination or harassment.

Despite the above, all of us conduct business in the same manner. What we do isn’t any different from the supervisors in the field who work to ensure a healthy climate in their work centers every day. We just do it through out-and-about and unit climate assessments.

Our hats go off to the supervisors who make it known that they won’t tolerate inappropriate comments and behavior in their shops. And we are grateful to all the supervisors who continue to handle little issues before they become big issues without outside involvement. But in some cases we just happen to be that outside involvement.

While we encourage working issues at the lowest level – because that’s where they are solved – everyone has the right to take an issue to an objective outside party for resolution. And that’s what we do; we’re simply a helping agency.

We are proud to be on your team, and we’re here for you when you need us. So, when you hear our voice on the phone or see us in your units, it doesn’t always mean trouble is brewing. Just like you, we’re working to support “The World’s Finest.”

From the legendary civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.”



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It’s to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It’s also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Recognizing The World’s Finest

• Congratulations to **Sean Boyle**, Aviano Elementary and Middle School music teacher, who composed a canon that will be used at the National Association of Music Education in Salt Lake City. His canon, titled “Perpetual Canon in Four Voices,” was selected after a nationwide competition and will be sung at the opening of the convention.

• Congratulations to **Jack (John) Schrader**, Aviano High School student, who was selected as a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholar Program.

• Congratulations to **Denise Jackson**, 31st Contracting Squadron, who received the Black Employment Program Award for her support and contributions at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

• Congratulations to the following Airmen for their outstanding completion of their Career Development Courses: **Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Torres**, 31st Maintenance Squadron; **Senior Airman Kaweo Andreas-Feeny**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron; and **Senior Airman Aric Andrade**, 31st CES.

• Congratulations to all the **fifth grade Aviano Elementary School students** for successfully completing the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. You are truly an inspiration to me and I hope the knowledge I have passed on to you leads you to a life of healthy decisions. – *Senior Airman Kristi Morrell, 31st Security Forces Squadron DARE officer*